

of peers which assembled at the Guildhall when the King's flight was discovered. Like them, there being now no government in existence, Dartmouth addressed himself to the Prince of Orange. As he said in 1691 / After the King was withdrawn, I could not think the fleet under my command belonged to any but my country, to whom I brought it by God's blessing safe home, without making any capitulations with the then Prince of Orange /

This episode has been dwelt on at some length partly because it is interesting to compare the conduct of the army and the navy and partly because the new materials published since Macaulay wrote have made the action of the navy and its commander much clearer. In dealing with the history of the navy, Macaulay had none of the advantages which he possessed when he treated military affairs. He started with less knowledge of the subject and he had imperfect materials at his disposal. There were two books of some little merit to which he frequently referred. One was The Naval History of England in All Its Branches, from the Conquest to the Conclusion of 1734* by Thomas Lediard : a compilation in a couple of folio volumes, which Sir John Laughton says is, for its date, both comprehensive and accurate. It was published in 1735. The other was the valuable contemporary history

called *Memoirs of Transactions at Sea during the War with France Beginning in 1688 and Ending in 1697*. This was by Josiah Burchett, Secretary to the Admiralty from 1695 to 1742¹ and was published in 1703. For the personal history of the commanders, Macaulay had at his disposal Charnock's *Biographia Navalis*, published in 1794. There was a number of contemporary pamphlets about naval affairs, but hardly any documents relating to

¹ Ibid. p. 290.